UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1997/2
15 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Organizational session for 1997
23 January and 4-7 February 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Basic programme of work of the Council.

4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227: Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

5. Review of the subsidiary bodies of the Council.

6. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Elections, nominations and confirmations.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of the Bureau

1. Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that each year at the commencement of its 1st meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 1997 is given in the annex below. According to the rotation of the office of President among the regional groups, the President for 1997 should be the representative of a member of the Eastern European States

97-01119 (E) 170197

/...

group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the other four regional groups.

2. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each Vice-President.

3. Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 23 January 1997 for the election of the Bureau.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

4. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the selection of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

5. The attention of the Council is drawn to annex II of General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular section D, which sets out the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the indications therein and with other relevant legislative decisions, including, in particular, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

Item 3. Basic programme of work of the Council

6. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

7. The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1997 and 1998 prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

8. Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

9. In its decision 1996/310 of 13 November 1996, the Council decided that the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1997 should be devoted to the following theme: "Fostering an enabling environment for development - Financial flows, including capital flows; Investment; Trade".

10. In its decision 1996/310 of 13 November 1996, the Council also decided that the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1997 should be devoted to consideration of the following themes: "Mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system"; and "Fresh water, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation".

11. In its decision 1996/310 of 13 November 1996, the Council further decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1997 should be devoted to the following theme: "Funding for operational activities for development: implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227".

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1997 and 1998 (E/1997/1)

Proposals by the Bureau of the Council on the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1997 and 1998

Item 4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227: Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

12. At its resumed substantive session of 1996, the Council postponed until its organizational session for 1997 consideration of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227: Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (Council decision 1996/320 of 20 November 1996). Prior to that decision, the Council had held a number of informal consultations on the matter. To facilitate those consultations, the Secretariat prepared a number of informal papers including an analysis of the agenda items of the Council and a comparison thereof with items considered by the Second and Third Committees of the Assembly; a note on the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/227: provisions related to the Economic and Social Council; and an informal paper on the outcome of informal Council discussions on Assembly resolution 50/227.

Item 5. Review of the subsidiary bodies of the Council

13. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 the Council should, inter alia, undertake a review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, in order to ensure more effective and coordinated discussions and outcomes of their work. In its resolution 1996/41 B, the Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council not later than February 1997.

14. In its resolution 51/211 A the General Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to request all of its subsidiary bodies that were authorized to meet away from their established headquarters to review, in the interest of improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the exception to the headquarters rule in the light of the current situation of their work, and to make recommendations thereon, through the Committee on Conferences, to the Assembly at its fifty-second session. To this end, the Secretariat has prepared a note on venues of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Council.

Documentation

Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields: report of the Secretary-General (E/1996/97)

Working methods of the Council's subsidiary bodies: note by the Secretariat (E/1996/97/Add.1)

Venues of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Council: note by the Secretary-General

Item 6. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

15. At its resumed substantive session of 1996, the Council postponed until its organizational session for 1997 consideration of the draft decision entitled "Documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" (Council decision 1996/318 of 20 November 1996).

16. At its 56th plenary meeting, on 20 November 1996, the Council welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat to prepare, for the information of Member States, an assessment on ways and means to deal with the documentation requests emanating from the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its session in 1997.

17. At its resumed substantive session of 1996, the Council, in its decision 1996/313 of 14 November 1996, inter alia, took note of the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations that the National Society for Human Rights be granted special consultative status with the Council, and agreed to take a decision on the issue at its organizational session of 1997 noting, in that context, the intention of the Government of Namibia to supply relevant information at that session.

Documentation

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision III contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1996/102) (E/1996/L.57) (Programme budget implications of draft decision E/1996/L.57 are contained in document E/1996/L.58)

Assessment of ways and means to deal with documentation requests emanating from the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations: note by the Secretariat

Item 7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

18. At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject related to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation. The Council will have to decide on the

subject to be selected so that a section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected can be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

19. Additionally, as requested by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in its resolution 553 (XXVI), the Council will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and their impact on ECLAC.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and their impact on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/1997/5)

Item 8. Elections, nominations and confirmations

Postponed elections

20. The Council is called upon to hold elections and nominations, postponed from previous sessions, to the following bodies:

Commission on Population and Development

From Asian States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000.

Commission for Social Development

From Asian States: three members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Eastern European States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: three members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

From Western European and other States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997.

Commission on Human Settlements

From African States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999;

From Asian States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000 and one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

From African States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999 and one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997;

From Asian States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999; two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997;

From Western European and other States: three members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Committee on Natural Resources

From Asian States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Eastern European States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Western European and other States: three members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development

From African States: six members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Asian States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Eastern European States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot;

From Western European and other States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on a date to be determined by lot.

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/72 of 12 December 1996, the Council will be called upon to elect two additional members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Postponed nominations

Committee for Programme and Coordination

22. In accordance with General Assembly decision 51/305 of 14 October 1996, the Council will be called upon to nominate two members for election by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-first session, as follows:

From Western European and other States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Confirmations

23. The Secretary-General will submit for confirmation by the Council the names of persons nominated to serve as representatives on the functional commissions of the Council since the close of the organizational session for 1996.

Annex

MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOR 1997

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	1998
Australia	1997
Bangladesh	1998
Belarus	1997
Brazil	1997
Canada	1998
Cape Verde	1999
Central African Republic	1998
Chile	1999
China	1998
Colombia	1997
Congo	1997
Côte d'Ivoire	1997
Cuba	1999
Czech Republic	1998
Djibouti	1999
El Salvador	1999
Finland	1998
France	1999
Gabon	1998
Gambia	1999
Germany	1999
Guyana	1998
Iceland	1999
India	1997
Jamaica	1997
Japan	1999
Jordan	1998
Latvia	1999
Lebanon	1998
Luxembourg	1997
Malaysia	1997
Mexico	1999
Mozambique	1999

	Term expires on 31 December
Netherlands	1997
Nicaragua	1998
Philippines	1997
Poland	1997
Republic of Korea	1999
Romania	1998
Russian Federation	1998
South Africa	1997
Spain	1999
Sri Lanka	1999
Sudan	1997
Sweden	1998
Thailand	1997
Togo	1998
Tunisia	1998
Turkey	1999
Uganda	1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1998
United States of America	1997
Zambia	1999